

## Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, OAS  
SUBJECT: CERP 0007 FIELD EVALUATION OF OAS PROGRAMS - 1976

REF: STATE A-5420

### A. COUNTRY PERCEPTION OF OAS FIELD PROGRAMS

KEY GOU DEVELOPMENT OFFICIALS AND TECHNICIANS CONSIDER OAS  
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM USEFUL IN FILLING CERTAIN ASSISTANCE  
NEEDS NOT BEING ATTENDED BY OTHER MAJOR DONORS.

### B. U.S. MISSION PERCEPTION OF OAS FIELD PROGRAM

1. MISSION COORDINATES AND OBTAINS INFORMATION ON OAS ACTIVITIES  
THROUGH FREQUENT CONTACTS, OFFICIAL AND INFORMAL, WITH OAS  
REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS STAFF AND THROUGH DISCUSSIONS ON OAS  
ACTIVITIES WITH GOU OFFICIALS. OAS ACTIVITIES ARE IN AREAS GENERAL-  
LY WHERE THERE IS NO AID INVOLVEMENT; THEREFORE, OUR ROLE IS  
LIMITED TO GATHERING INFORMATION ON OAS PROGRAMS, ENSURING  
THAT THERE IS NO DUPLICATION, AND THAT OAS PROGRAMS ARE SOUNDLY  
CONCEIVED AND, WHERE APPROPRIATE, COMPLEMENT AND REINFORCE  
AID ACTIVITIES.

2. MISSION BELIEVES OAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS ARE MAKING  
MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION TO URUGUAY'S DEVELOPMENT PROCESS. N C  
IS FINANCING PROJECTS FALLING WITHIN GOU DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES  
WHICH OTHER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AGENCIES CANNOT PROVIDE OR  
WHICH FALL WITHIN AREAS SUCH AS EDUCATION, WHERE OAS HAS SPECIAL  
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COMPETENCE.

3. OAS REPRESENTATIVE ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN PERIODIC MEETINGS  
OF EXTERNAL ASSISTANCE AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES AND APPEARS TO BE  
WELL INFORMED ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN URUGUAY. HE IS  
AN EFFECTIVE MANAGER AND REPRESENTATIVE OF HIS AGENCY'S INTERESTS.  
4. THE GENERAL IMAGE OF OAS AS A DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IS QUITE

SATISFACTORY, DESPITE THE RATHER MARGINAL ASSISTANCE ROLE IT PLAYS IN URUGUAY. OAS PROCEDURES ARE SOMEWHAT SLOW AND BUREAUCRATIC, AND ITS SYSTEM PROVIDES LIMITED AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO OAS REPRESENTATIVE.

#### C. PROJECTS

MISSION UNDERSTANDS THAT OF THE 12 PROJECTS INCLUDED IN GOU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COOPERATION PROGRAM REQUEST TO OAS SUBMISSION, ONLY SEVEN HAVE BEEN APPROVED, AND ONLY ONE OF THESE IS A NEW PROJECT, THE OTHERS BEING EXTENSIONS. THE SEVEN APPROVED PROJECTS WILL FILL A REAL DEMAND AND COMPLEMENT ACTIVITIES OF OTHER DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES. MISSION EXPECTS PROCESSED FRUIT MARKET RESEARCH PROJECT TO BE APPROVED SOON, WHICH WILL IMPORTANTLY COMPLEMENT AID'S AGRI-INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT LOAN PROGRAM.

1. WE HAVE NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON ELIMINATION, EXPANSION OR CHANGES IN ONGOING PROGRAM.
2. OAS PROJECTS FILL ASSISTANCE NEEDS, SOME OF WHICH, SUCH AS CAPITAL MARKETS PROGRAM, RELATE TO KEY PRIORITY REFORM AREAS. IN GENERAL, HOWEVER, THE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS WHILE USEFUL, ARE NOT CRUCIAL TO THE COUNTRY'S STABILIZATION/DEVELOPMENT EFFORT.
3. EFFECTIVE COORDINATION BETWEEN OAS, THE GOU ASSISTANCE COORDINATION OFFICE AND OTHER DONOR AGENCIES HAVE INSURED THAT OAS PROJECTS ARE COMPLEMENTARY TO OTHER ACTIVITIES AND DO NOT DUPLICATE OTHER ACTIVITIES.

#### D. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. OAS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS COULD BE IMPROVED IF SPECIFIC MEASURABLE OBJECTIVES ARE INCLUDED IN PROJECT DESIGN AND ADEQUATE EVALUATION INSTITUTIONALIZED.

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2. OAS LOCAL OFFICE SHOULD HAVE MORE RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY IN NEGOTIATING, APPROVING, EVALUATING AND IMPLEMENTING PROJECTS IF MORE DYNAMIC AND RESPONSIVE MECHANISM FOR EFFECTIVE ASSISTANCE IS DESIRED.
  3. PROJECTS WITHIN EDUCATION-SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AREA SHOULD BE BETTER COORDINATED WITH GOU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COORDINATION OFFICE IN THE PLANNING SECRETARIAT TO ASSURE THEY RESPOND TO KEY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES OF URUGUAY. OAS EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS ARE CURRENTLY HANDLED BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND OAS/WASHINGTON WITH LITTLE PARTICIPATION OF GOU TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COORDINATION OFFICE.
- SIRACUSA

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